

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated March 10, 2004, please consider the following remarks.

In the Office Action issued March 10, 2004, claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-6, 10-15, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pitkow, U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0016786 (Pitkow). Claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitkow in view of Hofmann, U.S. Patent No. 6,687,696.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-27 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter that the inventor considers to be the invention. Claims 2, 11, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 12, and 21 have been amended to correct dependencies.

The present invention is not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, the references relied upon in the Office Action, as the prior art references do not disclose or suggest the claimed features of the present invention.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention according to claims 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15, 19, and 22-24 is not anticipated by Pitkow. Pitkow discloses a search and recommendation system that employs the preferences and profiles of individual users and groups within a community of users, as well as

information derived from categorically organized content pointers, to augment Internet searches, re-rank search results, and provide recommendations for objects based on an initial subject-matter query.

Pitkow discloses generating recommendations based on bookmarks stored by the user, and in particular using subject, context, and relevance feedback and the popularity, frequency of use, and recency of use of the bookmarks. (See [0097]). By contrast, the present invention, for example, according to claim 1, requires retrieving at least one recommendation for alternative search results relating to the search query, the recommendation based on users search query logs and search pattern information. Thus, the recommendations required by the present invention are based on search behavior of the user as captured by search query logs and search pattern information. Pitkow does not disclose or suggest this, rather, Pitkow discloses generating recommendations based on bookmarks stored by the user.

Pitkow discloses assigning a user to an interest group based on clusters generated from the user's bookmarks or the documents pointed to by the bookmarks. (See [0093]) Pitkow also discloses generating a global hierarchy of categories of bookmarks by performing centroid-based clustering using the titles or contents of documents pointed to by the bookmarks. (See [0136] - [0138]) By contrast, the present invention, for example, according to claim 1, requires generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, the thematic

clusters generated by performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the retrieved documents. Pitkow does not disclose or suggest generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, rather, Pitkow discloses assigning a user to an interest group based on bookmarks or bookmarked documents or generating a global hierarchy of categories of bookmarks based on bookmarked documents. Pitkow does not disclose or suggest generating any categories based on retrieved documents. Likewise, Pitkow discloses generating clusters using centroid-based clustering using the titles or contents of documents pointed to by the bookmarks. Pitkow does not disclose or suggest performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the retrieved documents.

Thus, the present invention, according to claim 1, and according to claims 10 and 19, which are similar to claim 1, as well as according to claims 3-6, 12-15, and 21-24, which depend from claims 1, 10, and 19 respectively, is not anticipated by Pitkow.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention according to claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 is not unpatentable over Pitkow in view of Hofmann. Hofmann discloses a system that implements a method for personalized filtering of information and automated generation of user-specific recommendations. Hofmann discloses the use of eXtensible Markup Language.

However, Hofmann does not disclose or suggest retrieving at least one recommendation for alternative search results relating to the search query, the recommendation based on users search query logs and search pattern information, nor does Hofmann disclose or suggest generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, the thematic clusters generated by performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the retrieved documents. Thus, Hofmann does not cure the deficiencies of Pitkow with respect to these requirements of the present invention.

Thus, the present invention, according to claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 is not unpatentable over Pitkow in view of Hofmann.

Each of the claims now pending in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

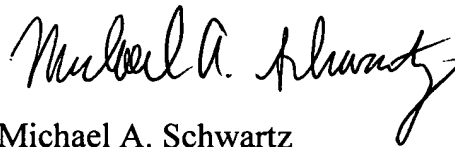
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19111.0051).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. Schwartz
Reg. No. 40,161

Dated: July 12, 2004

Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500